



Fig. 1. *Eurodryas aurinia* Rott. ab. *virgata* Tutt ($\times 1.5$ life size).

during a 6-year period of extreme abundance of the species (1894–1899). When the population stabilized aberrations were hard to find. (R. M. Craske (*pers. comm.*) made similar observations during a population explosion of the species near Plaistow, Sussex in 1945/6.) The authors attributed this phenomenon to the fact that weaker, aberrant individuals would have a chance to survive to become adults during a period in which the population was increasing in size from a point far below its average towards its optimum size. This is because, during a period of increasing population size, selection would be less intensive than when the population reached its optimum level.

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SHORT COMMUNICATION

The white-letter hairstreak in south-east London.—One the warm and muggy morning of 17.vii.1994 a large *Buddleja* bush in Nunhead Cemetery, London SE15, attracted only a single butterfly, a rather battered white-letter hairstreak, *Strymonidia w-album* (Knoch). This was the first time I had encountered the species in Nunhead, although a dead hairstreak caterpillar was brought to me, from the cemetery, some years ago. The several hundred large English elms, *Ulmus procera* Salisb., which punctuated the cemetery grounds were killed in the 1970s by Dutch elm disease; many of their trunks still lie prostrate in wooded corners. Suckers and sapplings are regenerating; they now reach about 6 m high and the disease is reappearing to kill a few each year. The butterfly is obviously very local in the London area, but its appearance in Nunhead (vice-county 17, “Surrey”) may support ideas that it is recolonizing as elms regrow.—Richard A. Jones, 13 Bellwood Road, Nunhead, London SE15 3DE.